# SOLCIES

July 2001 Volume 56, No. 7



#### The Official **U.S. Army Magazine**

Secretary of the Army: Thomas E. White Chief of Staff: GEN Eric K. Shinseki Chief of Public Affairs: MG Larry D. Gottardi Chief, Information Strategy: William R. Drobnick

#### Soldiers Staff

Editor in Chief: LTC John E. Suttle Managing Editor: Lou Walker Production Editor: Steve Harding Art Director: Helen Hall VanHoose

Senior Editor: Gil High

Associate Editor: SFC Lisa Beth Snyder

Photo Editor: vacant

Photojournalist: Heike Hasenauer Associate Art Director: Paul Henry Crank Special Products Editor: Beth Reece Executive Secretary: Joseph T. Marsden

Soldiers (ISSN 0093-8440) is published monthly under supervision of the Army Chief of Public Affairs to provide the Total Army with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. ■ Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108. Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Phone: DSN 656-4486 or commercial (703) 806-4486. Or send e-mail to soldiers@ belvoir.army.mil. ■ Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to Soldiers and the author. ■ All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited.

■ Military distribution: From the U.S. Army Distribution Operations Facility, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO 63114-6181, in accordance with Initial Distribution Number (IDN) 050007 subscription requirements submitted by commanders.  $\blacksquare$  The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. ■ Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: U1.A827. ■ Periodicals postage paid at Fort Belvoir, VA, and additional mailing offices. ■ Individual domestic subscriptions are available at \$36 per year through the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. For credit card orders call (202) 512-1800 or FAX (202) 512-2250. ■ To change addresses for individual subscriptions, send your mailing label with changes to: Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOM, Washington, DC 20402. ■ POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Fort Belvoir address above.

# FOCUS ON BASIC TRAINING

#### 4 First Step to an "Army of One"

Army Basic Combat Training is the nine-week process that turns frightened kids into confident adults, skilled in the art of soldiering.

#### **10** Sticking to Basics

Trainers pull out all the stops to help Army recruits make the sometimes-painful transition from civilian to soldier.

# **FEATURES**

#### **21** Phantom Lifeline

Soldiers spread out across Texas in one of the largest peacetime logistics exercises ever conducted by the 13th COSCOM.

#### **22** Doctor Demo

Keeping U.S. and allied soldiers alive is the single goal of a landmine expert soldiers have gotten to know as "The Man."

### **24** Decoding the OMPF

Often considered a military secret, the Official Military Personnel File yields its treasures in this center-section review of its components and functions.







## **26** Saving Soldiers From Suicide

The third-leading cause of death among active-duty soldiers in peacetime "isn't something people do on the spur of the moment."

# **34** The Soldier-Employer Team

Striking an acceptable balance between the demands of the workplace and military duty brings the ESGR into action.

#### **38** Surveying Soldier Concerns

Unpredictability, not OPTEMPO per se, surfaced as a big point of contention among soldiers and their spouses in a recent look at training and leader development.





▲ ДД

#### 41 When Food Bites Back

Summer fun and other festive occasions have a sometimes deadly downside when participants ignore the basic rules of safe food handling.

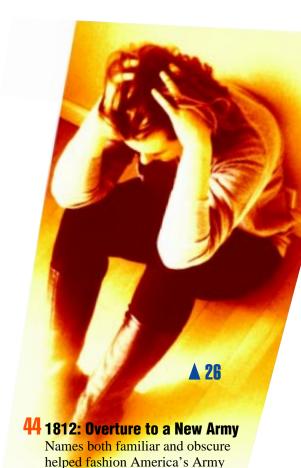
#### **42** Fast Science

Cutting-edge technology gets to soldiers in the field FAST when Michael Golden goes out looking for complaints instead of compliments.

# **DEPARTMENTS**

- 2 Feedback
- 16 Briefings
- 30 Focus on People
- 32 Legal Forum
- **48 Around the Services**
- 49 Final Round





into the pre-Civil War force that

expanded the nation's frontiers.



SSG Maurice
Greening, Co. D,
1st Bn., 28th Inf.
Regt., works with
his basic training
platoon on drill
and ceremony at
Fort Jackson, S.C.
— Photo by SSG
Jack Siemieniec

